



October 2003

in this issue:

- > News you can use
Submit Your Unemployment Insurance Appeal Online
- > Our Mission to Business
- > Unemployment Insurance Claims Remain High
- > Accessing Wage Data
- > Web site Options for Customers
- > Economic Outlook for Utah and Eastern Region

State of Utah

**Department of
Workforce Services**



Eastern Region
Judy Chambley
Regional Director

1680 West Highway 40
Suite 203B
Vernal, UT 84078
(435) 789-7597
(435) 789-7525 fax

Vernal DWS Business Consultants Aid in Teacher Recruitment

Is there a teacher shortage in Uintah County? Larry Kleine, Human Resource (HR) Director at the Uintah School District, says that "the shortage is not as severe as you hear in the media, particularly in rural Utah. But many districts will have teacher shortages in the specialty areas, such as Special Education and Math." He went on to say that for a recent Math teacher opening, there were only four applicants, and just two of those had the necessary teacher licensing.

Uintah School District employs a little over 600 workers, with 300 of those being licensed teachers. The District provides education services to 5700 students. The annual payroll for the school district tops \$30 million, making district employees a big contributor to the local economy.



Marilyn Wallis, DWS Business Consultant (r), meets with Lila Redding (l) and Larry Kleine (c) of the Uintah School District to discuss hiring needs.

Larry said that many of the nonteacher positions in particular, are filled by local residents. "They are good jobs with excellent benefits. Once one is filled by a local, there tends to be little turnover." In the Uintah Basin, where the ups and downs of the oil industry are a fact of life, the number of applicants varies considerably. "We have had 74 people apply for a position in the 'down' time, that in the 'up' time may have only received a handful."

Recruiting teachers is a little different. "We recruit our teachers on more of a statewide basis, utilizing the placement offices of the universities in Utah to provide applicants."



Headquarters of the Uintah School District

Lila Redding, who assists Larry in the HR office, is responsible for much of the recruiting and hiring for job openings. She works closely with Marilyn Wallis, Business Consultant in the Vernal Employment Center (EC) of the Department of Workforce Services. "When the District has an opening, Lila contacts me with the information about the job opening, and we immediately post it at our Website and in our office. We know the school district has jobs with good benefits, and our job seekers are very interested in those kind of positions."

Lila appreciates the work that the Vernal EC does. "Marilyn is great to work with. She always does just exactly what we want and does a great job of sending us people that are qualified for the position. We have a very success relationship with Workforce Services."

Marilyn is impressed with the way the district is able to work with job seekers that have a disability. "Often the schools can use a disabled person as a janitor or in some other kind of job. And the school officials will go the extra mile to make the job work out for the person."

News You Can Use

Submit Your Unemployment Insurance Appeal Online

The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) is excited to offer Utah employers an easier way to submit their unemployment insurance appeals. Employers now have the option of filing their appeals online. To file online, you must be registered with the DWS' Unemployment Insurance Division and been assigned a Personal Identification Number (PIN). It is easy to register with DWS online at: jobs.utah.gov

The following outlines the steps for filing an appeal online. Although there are a number of steps, it is quite simple.

1. Go to jobs.utah.gov
2. Under "Quick Links" choose "File an Appeal."
3. This form is only for registered employers. Choose "Employer Appeals."
4. Enter your State Identification Number and your PIN. Your PIN was assigned to you when you registered with the Unemployment Insurance Division. If you don't remember your PIN, click on "Need Your Pin?" and enter your Federal Identification Number in the appropriate box. Click "continue."
5. On the screen titled: "Confidential Information & Services," Choose the option entitled "How to Appeal Unemployment Insurance Determinations."
6. Choose "Submit Appeal Electronically."
7. On this page you have the option to file an initial appeal (if you haven't already had a hearing with an Administrative Law Judge) or to file an appeal to the Workforce Services Appeals Board (if you're appealing an Administrative Law Judge's decision.)
8. Complete the form and submit.

After submitting your appeal, you will receive a confirmation. Make sure you keep track of that number. You will receive correspondence from DWS advising you of the time, date, and place of your hearing within four weeks of submitting the appeal. If you have questions about your appeal status or the appeals process in general, call the Appeals Division at (801) 526-9300.

DWS' Mission is to Connect Business with Solutions

We are grateful for the opportunity we have to serve you. If you have never used us, or if it has been awhile, it is time to check out what we have to offer.

Whether you are looking for employees, want to improve your workplace, or face laying off some of your workforce, we have all the solutions you need in one place.

- **Hiring and information solutions.** We can help you find the people you need to grow, and furnish the labor market information you want for solid business decisions.
- **Consultative solutions.** We want you to succeed and can connect you with a limitless number of solutions that enhance your workforce and grow your business.
- **Downsizing solutions.** We can ease the transition for your business and employees in the event you have to reduce your workforce.

At DWS, we are committed to connecting your business to the solutions you need. Visit us online at jobs.utah.gov or call us 1-888-920-WORK and let our team help yours!

Unemployment Insurance Claims Remain High

Benefits paid to Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants continue to remain at high levels in 2003 (January through July). Although down 11 percent compared to the same time last year, over \$143 million have been put into the Utah economy through the payment of regular UI claims.

Additionally, UI has paid claimants over \$31 million in Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) benefits and over \$9 million in State Additional Benefits.

How many people in the economy do these numbers represent? 57,000 have filed claims for regular UI, 13,000 for TEUC, and 8,000 for State Additional Benefits.

Accessing Wage Data is Now Easier and Faster

Are you interested in how your pay compares to others in your occupation? Wondering what salary to offer for that position you need to fill? No matter who you are, or what your reasons are, we know you are interested in wage data. Fortunately, accessing Utah wage data (and other data as well) just got a lot faster and easier.

A new tool on the jobs.utah.gov Web site, called the Utah Economic Data Viewer (UEDV), has just come on-line and it can simplify your search for information. Let's say you want to use the DWS Economic Information Web page to find out what the typical entry-level wage for an electrician is in Tooele County. In the past, this would require you first selecting the appropriate publication for wage data, then the right table, and finally, the occupation from an alphabetized list. But now, using UEDV from the main Economic Information page, you simply specify the parameters of your search, and UEDV retrieves that information from a database and builds you a chart just for the information you request.

Here is how it works: First, on the main page jobs.utah.gov/wi/, scroll down to, and click on UEDV. Then select the specific tool you want to use-in this case, the *Utah Occupational Wage*

UEDV | UTAH ECONOMIC DATA VIEWER

Data Viewer. Specify the geographic area you are inquiring about, then the occupation. Occupations can be specified by key word, occupational title, or a drill-down through broader occupational groups. Once you have set your parameters, click on "submit" and receive your customized chart showing the occupation you chose, in the area you specified, with its Entry, Average, Median, and Middle Range wages. You can also see the training that's typically required for the occupation, or even get a description of the occupation by clicking on the title. In addition, one click converts the hourly wage to a yearly figure.

The UEDV also can be used to quickly access other data: labor force data, such as employment numbers and unemployment rates, either seasonally adjusted or not, and population for the state as a whole or county (and multi-county) data.

More databases are being developed, so look for even more types of data to be available through this fast, easy tool in the future.

jobs.utah.gov Web site Offers Many Options For Customers

Since the official launch on November 2002, the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Web site, jobs.utah.gov has been an unqualified success. By August 2, 2003 the site logged its 900,000th self-assisted job referral. In fact, it has already logged its one-millionth referral. Several enhancements to the Web site have allowed employers to conduct all of their transactions online. Other enhancements allow claimants to file all types of Unemployment Insurance claims on the Web site.

For the second quarter of 2003, 8,290 employers filed their quarterly unemployment taxes online. This is an increase of nearly 1,000 employers from the previous quarter. Besides registering and filing their quarterly reports, employers can reopen accounts, file their wage data, change ownership, make their own address changes and close their accounts.

The site has seen a steady increase in job referrals users every month. During the month of July, 154,793 self-referrals were made. This represents 67 percent of the total referrals made by DWS in July. One year ago, all of these referrals would have been made within the department's Employment Centers. In July, 8,925 new job seekers registered with DWS, 5,300 of the registrations were completed on the web, representing nearly 60 percent of all new registrations.

Currently there are approximately 35,000 job referrals on the Web every week. During peak hours there is an average of about ten referrals every minute. The DWS is taking seriously Governor Leavitt's challenge of making government available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. On weekends and holidays we typically get over 1,000 referrals a day.

Utah Department of Workforce Services

Executive Director's Office

P.O. Box 143100

Salt Lake City, UT 84114-3100

*Return Service Requested*Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage**PAID**Salt Lake City, UT
Permit #4621**October 2003****Contact Numbers*****Uintah Basin Jobless Decreasing, Unemployment Rates Still High in San Juan and Emery Counties***

In Utah, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for July registered 5.2 percent, unchanged from June. Approximately 63,100 Utahns were unemployed in July 2003. A year ago in July, 71,700 Utahns were unemployed and the unemployment rate was 6.1 percent. Mark Knold, Senior Economist for the Department of Workforce Services (DWS)

said, "Largely no change at all in the Utah economy. The economic turning point is still a future event."

County	July 2002	July 2003
Daggett	3.8%	3.5%
Duchesne	7.1%	6.7%
Uintah	6.4%	5.8%
Carbon	6.6%	7.5%
Emery	8.3%	9.2%
Grand	6.0%	6.9%
San Juan	7.6%	9.3%
Utah	6.1%	5.2%
United States	5.9%	6.2%

The national unemployment rate edged slightly downward to 6.2 percent, partially offsetting the rise to 6.4 percent seen in June. The number of unemployed persons was 9.1 million. In July, the number of persons unemployed for less than 5 weeks decreased by 279,000.

Blanding	(435) 678-1400
Castle Dale	(435) 381-6100
Moab	(435) 719-2600
Monticello	(435) 587-2016
Price	(435) 636-2300
Roosevelt	(435) 722-6500
Vernal	(435) 781-4100

Eastern Region Employment

In the Uintah Basin, unemployment dropped as all three counties experienced decreases in unemployment when compared to 12 months ago. For the southeast counties, the opposite occurred: all four counties experienced significant increases in the number of unemployed, with San Juan County up to 9.3 percent unemployment, and Emery at 9.2 percent.